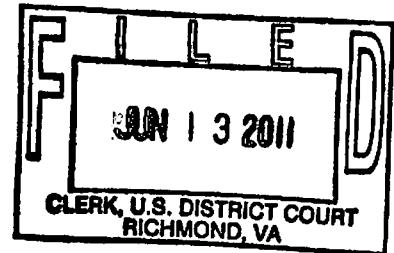


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Richmond Division



MATTHEW B. WHITAKER,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No.: 3:11-cv-00380

WELLS FARGO ADVISORS, LLC,

Defendant.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441 and 1446, defendant Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC ("Wells Fargo"), by counsel, files this Notice of Removal of the civil action styled *Matthew B. Whitaker v. Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC*, Case No. CL11-2440 (the "Action"), from the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond, Virginia (the "State Court") to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division. In support of this Notice of Removal, Wells Fargo states as follows:

Introduction.

1. On May 20, 2011, Plaintiff initiated the Action by filing a Complaint against Wells Fargo in the State Court.
2. Process was served on Wells Fargo on May 23, 2011. Accordingly, this Notice is filed within thirty days of Wells Fargo's receipt of a copy of the initial pleading. Further, less than one year has passed since the Action was commenced. Therefore, this Notice is filed within the requisite deadlines set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).
3. Because the Action is pending in the City of Richmond, Virginia, 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) and Local Civil Rule 3(B)(4) require that the Action be removed to this Court.
4. Copies of all pleadings filed in the State Court are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Diversity Jurisdiction

5. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a), “[t]he district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between ... citizens of different States.”

6. Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages in the amount of \$500,000.00. (*See Ex. A, Compl. at p. 7.*) Therefore, the matter in controversy in the Action exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

7. Additionally, Wells Fargo is a citizen of Delaware, Missouri and Minnesota. Wells Fargo is a Delaware limited liability company with its principle place of business in St. Louis, Missouri. Wells Fargo’s member is Wachovia Securities Financial Holdings, LLC, which is a Delaware limited liability company with its principle place of business in Missouri. Wachovia Securities Financial Holdings, LLC’s members are Everen Capital Corporation (“Everen”) and Wells Fargo Investment Group, Inc. (“WF Investment”). Everen is a Missouri corporation with its principle place of business in Missouri. WF Investment is a Delaware corporation with its principle place of business in Minnesota.

8. According to the Complaint, Plaintiff is a citizen of Virginia. (*See Ex. A, Compl. at ¶ 3.*) Therefore, the Action is between citizens of different States.

9. This Court has original jurisdiction over the Action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between citizens of different States. As a result, the Action may be removed to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441.

Date: June 13, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

WELLS FARGO ADVISORS, LLC

By Counsel


Warren David Harless, Esq. (VSB No. 20816)
Henry I. Willett, III, Esq. (VSB No. 44655)
David B. Lacy, Esq. (VSB No. 71177)
Counsel for Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
CHRISTIAN & BARTON, L.L.P.
909 East Main Street, Suite 1200
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3095
Tel.: (804) 697-4100
Fax: (804) 697-4112
wharless@cblaw.com
hwillett@cblaw.com
dlacy@cblaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

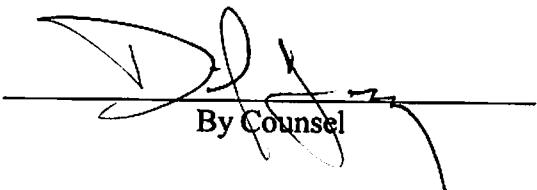
I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing was sent on this 13th day of June, 2011,
to the following:

By First Class Mail:

David R. Simonsen, Jr. (VSB No. 20078)
Vickey A. Verwey (VSB No. 20267)
Counsel for Plaintiff
8003 Franklin Farms Drive, Suite 131
Richmond, Virginia 23229-5107
Tel.: (804) 285-1337
Fax: (804) 285-1350
DSimonsenJ@aol.com

By Hand Delivery:

Hon. Bevill M. Dean, Clerk
Richmond Circuit Court
400 North Ninth Street
John Marshall Courts Building
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Tel.: (804) 646-6505
Fax: (804) 646-6562


By Counsel